(c) whether this represent a major break-through for AEC as it is moving from coal to gas-based power generation; and

(d) if so, what will be the total cost and expenditure involved and whether any help has been sought from the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) In May, 1988, the Government of Gujarat accorded permission to the Ahmedabad Electricity Company for setting up a 100 MW combined cycle gas-based power plant near Ahmedabad which is envisaged as the first gas-based power plant of the Company. The gas availability for the proposed power project remains to be confirmed.

The estimated cost of the proposed project is about Rs. 140 crores. No assistance has been sought from the Central Government.

Government's liberal policy on technology imports

2891. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Union Minister has pulled up industry for its failure to strengthen the research and development base despite Government's liberal policy on technology imports;

(b) if so, whether the Minister has pointed out that instead of giving utmost importance to generation upgradation, absorption and adaptation of the imported technology, the industrial units depended solely on their collaboration and associates;

(c) whether the Minister has also pointed out that the production of the Indian Industry was far below acceptable norms of international standards; and

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for the same and what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Industry is being constantly urged to strengthen their research and development base so that indigenous technologies could be developed, and imported technologies could be absorbed, adapted and improved upon to suit Indian conditions. In the case of large value foreign collaborations, the efforts made by the Indian company to absorb and adapt the imported technology are monitored.

(c) and (d) Industry is also being urged to improve their productivity and reduce their cost of production so that they can remain competitive both in internal and external markets. Modernisation and technology upgradation is being encouraged by the Goverment with a view to improving the efficiency of the industry.

Recognition to Trade Unions by BHEL

2892. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the trade unions recognised by BHEL at various plants/locations as per the procedure laid down alongwith their affiliations to National Trade Union Organisations;

(b) what is the procedure laid down by BHEL for recognition of trade unions;

(c) whether perks, powers, facilities and concessions are given to the Presidents and General Secretaries of the recognisd unions; and

(d) what is the present status granted by BHEL to office-bearers of non-recognised/ illegal unions?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) The list of Unions recognised or treated as recognised by BHEL is at Statement (*See* below).

(b) The following procedure is followed for recognition of union:

—As per State Legislation wherever prescribed.

—Through elections.

(c) No perks/powers facilities/concessions are given exclusively to the Presidents/General Secretaries of the recognised unions. However, the following facilitis are provided to the recognised unions:

—Time off facility for 4 hours per day for one person for every 500 members (votes polled) and in proportion thereof.

—Accommodation for union office.

—Furniture.

—Internal/External (PABX) Telephone.

(d) No facilities/concessions are extended to the office bearers of the non-recognised unions.

Statement

List of Unions recognised/treated as recognised at various Units of BHEL

Name of Unit	Names of the Unions which are Recognised/treated as Recognised**	Affiliation to National Trade Union Organisation
1	2	3
Heavy Electricals Plant, Bhopal	Heavy Electricals Mazdoor Trade Union	Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC)
	BHE Kamgar Trade Union	Centre for India Trade Union (CITU)
	Heavy Electricals Mazdoor Union	All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)
	Heavy Electricals Shramik Trade Union	Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS)
	Heavy Electriclals Workers Union	Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (HMS)
High Pressure Boiler Plant, Tiruchy	BHE Workers Union	CITU
	Boiler Plant Employees Union	—
	BHEL Employees Progressive Union	—
	Boiler Plant Anna Workers Union	—
Hyderabad	*Heavy Power Equipment Plan*	
	BHEL Workers & Staff Union Heavy Electricals Employees and Apprentice Association	IHTNC BMS
	BHEL All Employees & Trainees Union	
	BHEL Employees Trade Union Congress	
	Switchgear Unit	
	BHEL Workers Union	INTUC
	BHEL Switchgear Unit Employees Union	

1	2	
Heavy Electrical Equipment Plant, Hardwar	BHE Karamchari Sangh	BMS
	HE Workers Trade Union	INTUC
	BHEL Karmachari Parishad	—
	BHEL Workers Association	AITUC
	CFF Workers Union	INTUC
R&D Hyderabad	BHEL R&D Employees Union	INTUC
Electronics Division Bangalore	BHEL Employees Association	—
Electroporcelains Div., Bangalore	BHEL EPD Employees Association	—
Transformer plant Jhansi	BHEL Employees Union	INTUC
Insulator plant, Jagdishpur	BHEL Karmachari Sangh	INTUC
Delhi based Divisions	BHEL Employees Association	INTUC
Power Sector	All India BHEL Power Employees Union PPD Karmachari Union.	INTUC

NOTE: **The Unions which secured 10% votes in elections for representation on the Apex Level bipartite forum Joint Committee.

Joining of Paris Convention on Intellectual Property Rights

2893. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news report published in the Indian Express of July 25, 1988 captioned 'India and Paris Convention' to the effect that Government may succumb to pressure in joining Paris Convention on Intellectual Property Rights;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering the question of joining the Paris Convention;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering the question of joining the Paris Convention;

(d) what are the provisions of Paris Convention which are against the Indian Patent Act, 1970?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) Government has seen the newspaper article referred to.

The proponents for joining the Paris Convention argue that it will enhance the confidence of the foreign investor and create a favourable climate for the flow of technology to the host country. They also point out that the Convention provides sufficient flexibility to the host country to follow its national objectives and priorities in its own industrial property laws.

The main arguments advanced against joining the Convention are that it is weighted heavily in favour of protecting the patent holders of the developed market economy countries, that it will lead to monopolistic importation of patented articles and that it will impede the self-reliant technological and industrial development of the host developing countries.

Government has not taken any decision in this matter.